

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

FACULTY OF COMPUTER SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Chairman: Dr R. K. Harle

Secretary: Mrs M.A. Sammons

Minutes for the Directors of Studies Forum held on Tuesday 4 July 2017 at 10:00 in
FW11 in the William Gates Building

Members:

Prof J. Bacon (JE)	Dr R. M. Mortier (CHR)
Dr A. R. Beresford (ROB)	Dr R. D. Mullins (JN, PET)
Prof A. F. Blackwell (DAR)	Prof A Mycroft (ROB)
Dr P. J. Buttery (CAI)	Prof L. C. Paulson (CL)
Dr D.Chisnall (ME)	Ms D. Pounds (Manager Teaching Admin)
Dr A.N. Donnelly (PEM)	Prof P. Robinson (CAI)
Dr J. K. Fawcett (CHU,N,M,SID)	Dr A.C. Rice (Q)
Dr D. J. Greaves (CC)	Dr A. B. Roman (Q)
Dr T. G. Griffin (K)	Mrs M. Sammons (Teaching Admin Asst)
Mr C. K. Hadley (G)	Dr R. Sharp (ROB)
Dr R. K. Harle (DOW,ED,F)	Prof F. M. Stajano (T)
Dr J. M. Hayman (E)	Mrs C. Stewart (Dept Sec)
Dr S. B. Holden (T)	Dr S. Taraskin (CTH)
Dr A.V.S Madhavapeddy	Dr G. Titmus (CAI)
Prof C. Mascolo (JE)	Dr C. P. Town (W)
Prof S. W. Moore (TH)	Dr R. R. Watts (SE)

1. Apologies for absence

Dr A. R. Beresford
Dr A. F. Blackwell
Dr P. J. Buttery
Dr A.N. Donnelly
Dr A.V.S. Madhavapeddy
Dr R. M. Mortier
Dr A.B. Roman
Dr T.M. Sauerwald
Dr R.W. Sharp
Dr G. Titmus

2. Minutes from previous meeting

3 Matters arising

The TMC committee decided the department may limit the number of NST students it chooses to admit, and it was agreed that a mechanism for calculating this will be sought.

A review of the borrowing arrangement of respective Papers 1 from PBST and CST was discussed. The TMC have agreed to discontinue this option reciprocally from as soon as reasonable. The Directors of Studies agreed with this decision once any deferred offers for 2018 have been completed.

4 Notification of any other business

None.

5. Prof Anuj Dawar – Examination report

i. Prof Dawar reported that the examinations went well. The electronic submission via Moodle was very smooth and efficient. Thanks were extended to Dinah Pounds and the exam team for a seemingly flawless conclusion. Once again concern was expressed over deteriorating handwriting and how to overcome this. There was one incident where a breach in security was reported. It involved the use of a mobile phone by a IB student. The matter is undergoing investigation.

ii. Dissertation selection

It was suggested that some students were not receiving appropriate advice from their DoS about selecting a suitable project and often overseers observe this. By the time overseers are involved with the student, it is too late to change the project. It was agreed the overseers manual will be reinforced with clear instructions and consider using a rating scale. The manual will include last years' class list and ranking to determine the suitability of student to project. There should be sufficient time for reselection if original choice is unsuitable.

Action: DJG

iii. Word count

Clarification may be required to determine what is included in the word count, by way of captions, illustrations, font size and page limit. Moodle has a system of measuring word count to make the process more transparent.

iv. Attempting more than 5 questions

This year there was a proliferation of students attempting more than the requisite 5 questions. Again DoS are asked to emphasise in the exam briefing that answering more than 5 questions is not a good strategy.

Prizes are being awarded for the first time this year for the highly commended dissertations. A new prize was awarded for the '*most improved student*'. Questions were raised about the validity of the prize and if it is the most sensible choice of name? Ideas for a more aptly named prize was sought. Any fresh ideas should be advised to DP.

v. IA exams went smoothly with nothing untoward to report.

6. Distinction criterion

Any student ranked in both the top 5% of marks for the combined papers and in the dissertation is awarded a distinction in Part II. It is proposed to extend this to those students ranked in the top 10%. The Committee are happy for this recommendation to go to Faculty Board for further discussion.

RKH to ask LMG about how many P III / MPhil students receive distinctions.

7. Timetable

Paper 7 will be introduced in 2017; it is a continuation from Paper 3. A new course will be introduced, Formal Models of Language to run on Tuesdays and Thursdays in Easter term.

AI will move to Paper 6 and Semantics of Programming Languages to Paper 4.

It will not be possible for the CS students to attend the Scientific Computing lecture, with the suggestion by RKH to drop the course entirely and scale up the maths mark. The following year the plan is to move over to a portfolio of ticks and move to a system of negative marking.

It was advised that by 2018, Part II will be introducing a tick system.

8. CSAT report

Dr Bogdan Roman will report at the next meeting.

9. Date of next meeting

Friday 13 October 2017 at 2pm in FW26